DOCUMENT RESUME

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IDENTIFIERS	Parent Expectations; *Questions

ABSTRACT

Intended to foster communication among parents, teachers and school administrators, this brochure presents lists of questions parents may ask concerning school programs and policies, particularly at the beginning of the school year. Questions are organized by different levels of schooling from pre-kindergarten to high school. Pre-kindergarten questions address issues including readiness, accreditation, and transitions. Elementary questions include parent involvement, curriculum and class size issues. Questions for middle schools cover issues involving sex education, drug prevention, mentoring, counseling, and computer use. High school questions cover issues including apprenticeships, guidance and graduation procedures, and options for transitions into the work force or higher education. General questions address school policy issues including homework, testing, safety, absences, and discipline. (AMC)

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Welcome To School
Questions Parents Might Ask

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- In what ways does the school nurture children?
- How does the school foster social skills?
- In what ways does the school develop intellectual curiosity?
- Is the school licensed?
- Is the school accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children?
- How much does it cost? Are meals included?
- How large is each class? How many children are there for each teacher?
- What are the health requirements?
- How do you address "separation anxiety"?
- How do you prepare children for entry into kindergarten—academically and socially? Do you have a checklist for school readiness?
- How can parents help with the transition to kindergarten?
- What do you suggest parents do when their children are not ready for kindergarten?

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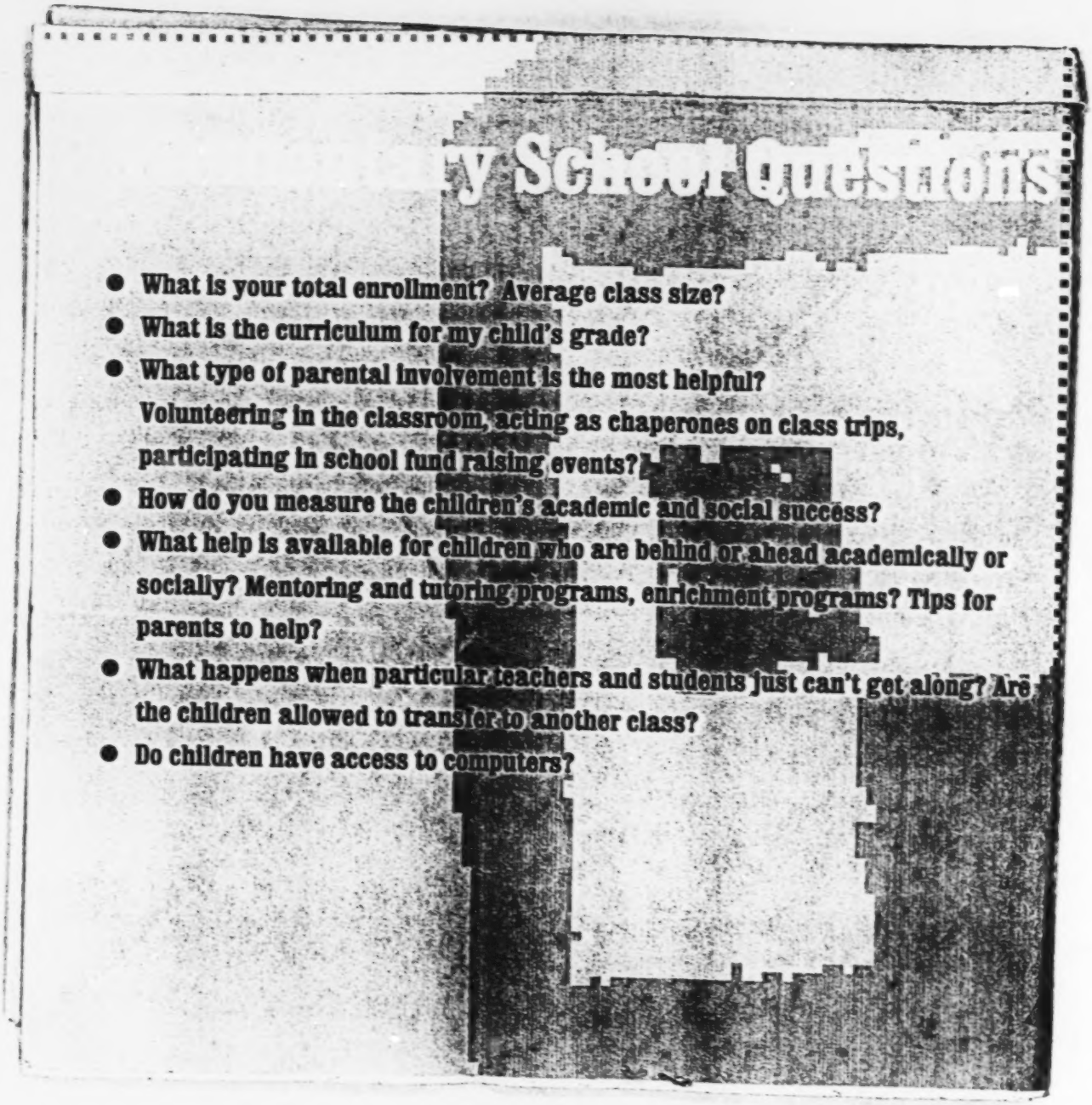

y School Questions

- What is your total enrollment? Average class size?
- What is the curriculum for my child's grade?
- What type of parental involvement is the most helpful? Volunteering in the classroom, acting as chaperones on class trips, participating in school fund raising events?
- How do you measure the children's academic and social success?
- What help is available for children who are behind or ahead academically or socially? Mentoring and tutoring programs, enrichment programs? Tips for parents to help?
- What happens when particular teachers and students just can't get along? Are the children allowed to transfer to another class?
- Do children have access to computers?

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High School Questi

- How many students are enrolled? Average class size?
- What guidance is offered to students regarding course selection. What can parents do to help?
- What help is available to students regarding college selection, SAT preparation financial aid, scholarship information? What can parents do to obtain this information?
- Are advanced placement courses available?
- Do you have peer counseling, tutoring, or mentoring programs?
- Does your school have a sex education program? A drug prevention program? A violence prevention program?
- Are internships or apprenticeship programs available? Other school-to-work programs?
- What percentage of students graduate?
- What percentage of students go on to four-year colleges or universities? Two-year community colleges? Vocational?
- Do students have access to computers? Is there Internet access?

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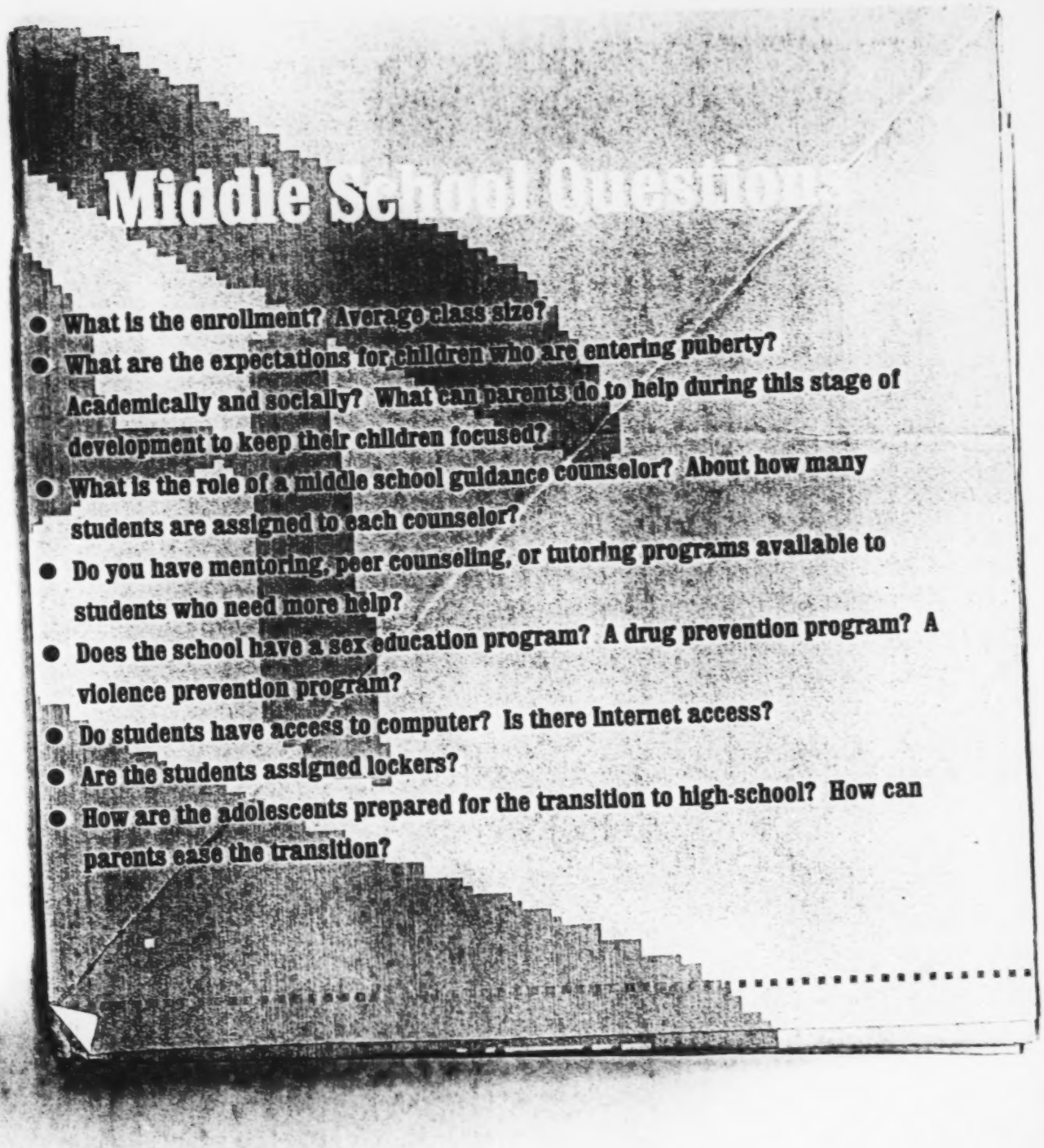
Middle School Questions
What is the enrollment? Average class size?
What are the expectations for children who are entering puberty? Academically and socially? What can parents do to help during this stage of development to keep their children focused?
What is the role of a middle school guidance counselor? About how many students are assigned to each counselor?
Do you have mentoring, peer counseling, or tutoring programs available to students who need more help?
Does the school have a sex education program? A drug prevention program? A violence prevention program?
Do students have access to computer? Is there Internet access?
Are the students assigned lockers?
How are the adolescents prepared for the transition to high-school? How can parents ease the transition?

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What is the school policy regarding:

- academic requirements
- homework
- class schedules
- testing
- report cards
- promotion to next grade
- enrichment programs
- after school activities
- activity fees – field trips, sports, after-school clubs
- financial assistance for activities and school supplies
- transportation to and from school – buses, cars, bikes, parking
- safety patrols, crossing guards
- school breakfasts and lunches
- absence from school
- safety
- visitors
- health and medication
- discipline
- dress
- school calendar and holidays
- teacher qualifications
- student placement
- services for children with special needs
- after-school care
- community service

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The information in this brochure was dieveloped from contributions made by teachers, researchers, and parents through the National Parent Information Network of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Dianne Rothenberg of the ERIC Clearinghouse and Joan Trumble of the National Library of Education coordinated the contributions. OERI staff who reviewed, edited, and designed the brochure include Linda Darby, Bob LeGrand, Simone Miranda, Kim Silverman, and Barbara Vespucci.

For more information on family involvement initiatives, contact 1-800-USA-LEARN or the National Library of Education, 1-800-424-1616.

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